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UNIFORM LAW CONFERENCE OF CANADA
CONFÉRENCE POUR L'HARMONISATION DES LOIS AU CANADA

Minutes of the Closing Plenary Session of the 108th Annual Meeting
of the Uniform Law Conference of Canada
at the Delta Hotel
in Winnipeg, Manitoba
on Friday, August 21, 2026, at 10:15 AM CDT

Opening Remarks

President Chloé Rousselle welcomed everyone to the closing plenary of the 2026 annual meeting and stated it was hard to believe their week together was already coming to an end. She said that it was a very busy and productive week, where the delegates addressed a wide range of important issues, engaged in fruitful discussions, and achieved concrete results through the adoption of numerous recommendations, reports, and resolutions.

Ms Rousselle expressed her deep gratitude to the entire organizing team in Manitoba for their efforts, which made the week a success. From the logistics to the warm welcome, their attention to detail truly had a positive impact on the annual meeting.

Ms Rousselle invited the Section Chairs to present their reports.

Reports from the Section Chairs

i. Criminal Section

Alisia Adams said that the Criminal Section had a successful week, thanks in large part to the thoughtful engagement of its delegates, many of whom were familiar faces but also included new delegates who jumped into the role and contributed to the work of the Section. She thanked all those who participated.

Ms Adams stated that the Section debated 26 resolutions during the week, of which 24 were carried, including one by jurisdictional vote. As well, one resolution was defeated and one was withdrawn after debate. She indicated that the carried resolutions included a wide range of issues related to the criminal justice system, including communications accommodations to facilitate testimony, restitution and prohibition orders, protections for complainants, and matters relating to the offences of robbery and impaired driving. She added that the Section also approved a resolution to create a new working group to focus on the overrepresentation of mentally ill accused persons in the criminal justice system.

Ms Adams said that the Section heard status updates from the working groups on juries and fitness hearings, and on restrictions on the publication of the name of accused persons, as well as received a final report on statutory exemptions to mandatory minimum penalties of imprisonment. They also appreciated hearing the policy report of the joint working group on the treatment of animals in Canadian law.

Ms Adams stated that the report of the federal jurisdictional representative (JR) that was presented to the Section spoke to the impact of the work of the ULCC and the Criminal Section in particular. The JR advised that more than 50 ULCC resolutions and reports informed the federal bills that came into force during the summer. She said it is that clear the work of the ULCC is informing Canadian law in an ongoing manner.

Ms Adams announced that the Criminal Section had selected its Chair for 2027-2028, which will be Justin Reid from Ontario, and said she was pleased to hand over the Chair duties for 2026-2027 into the capable hands of Nicolas Abran from Québec. She thanked the Criminal Section Secretary, Aleksander Godlewski, who, for the past four

years, has ably supported the work of the Section in a tangible way. She indicated that Mr Godlewski will be stepping down from the role of Secretary and thanked him for his many contributions.

Lastly, Ms Adams expressed her thanks and appreciation for Ms Rousselle, ULCC President and longtime member of the Criminal Section, who in addition to all her presidential duties found time to actively participate in the Section's debates, and congratulated her for a successful year and her diligent leadership of the ULCC.

Ms Rousselle thanked Ms Adams for a successful week in the Criminal Section.

ii. Civil Section

Dave Cordingley reported on behalf of Section Chair Tyler Nyvall, who could not attend the annual meeting this year. He said that the Civil Section had a very busy week, and he recognized the individuals who stepped in to chair the meetings during the week, namely Greg Blue, K.C., Christine Badcock, and Elizabeth Strange.

Mr Cordingley said that the Section reviewed a significant amount of important material, including two proposed uniform acts and six policy reports. The Section also received a report on private international law and a review of judgments and journals. He thanked Lisa Jacobs from the United States for her presentation on the work of the Uniform Law Commission and said that the Section also viewed a video address from the President of the European Law Institute.

Mr Cordingley said that topics covered during the week included defamation in the internet age, charitable organizations, class actions, intestate succession, enforcement of foreign judgments, non-disclosure agreements, and cash payments. He stated that the Civil Section delegates should be proud of the number of materials they covered and of the excellent debates that were had. There were new delegates around the table, and the level of debate was exceptional.

Mr Cordingley took a moment to thank those who helped make the week a success, including Greg Blue, Christine Badcock, Christina Croteau, Michelle Lemieux Wilkinson, and the excellent interpreters . He thanked Ms Rousselle for her support as well as the delegates for traveling to Winnipeg for the annual meeting and said it was a pleasure to host them.

Ms Rousselle thanked Mr Cordingley, as well as Mr Nyvall for his many contributions throughout the year.

Thank-You Resolution

Ms Rousselle said that the annual meeting would not be possible without the work and support of numerous individuals and that she would like to acknowledge them all. She proposed the following resolution:

THAT the Uniform Law Conference express its thanks to:

1. The Manitoba Government and Department of Justice for hosting the 2026 (108th) annual meeting of the Uniform Law Conference of Canada;

2. The Manitoba Minister of Justice and Attorney General, Matt Wiebe, and the President of the Law Society of Manitoba, Ken Mandzuik, for speaking at the ULCC's Clark W. Dalton, K.C. Reception; and the CEO of the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, Isha Khan, for her keynote address at the closing banquet;

3. The panelists at the Earl Fruchtman Memorial Seminar: Dr. Gillian MacNeil and Brandon Trask, both from the University of Manitoba Faculty of Law; Evan Roitenberg, Manitoba member of the Canadian Council of Criminal Defence Lawyers; and Ray Wyant, former Chief Judge of the Manitoba Provincial Court, for sharing their expertise and thoughts on the Rule of Law;

4. Our international guests, Lisa Jacobs, President of the Uniform Law Commission (ULC) of the United States, for her attendance and presentation to the Civil Section; and, also from the ULC, Executive Director Eric Weeks, and John McGarvey;

5. The annual meeting planning committee for creating such a welcoming environment: from our host jurisdiction, Dave Cordingley, Mitchell Lavitt, Craig Savage, Charlotte Parker, and Lisa Thierjer; and from the ULCC, Chloé Rousselle, Valérie Simard, and Michelle Lemieux Wilkinson;

6. The secretariat and registration staff for their help throughout the week: Charlotte Parker and Danielle Yuel;

7. The 2025-2026 Executive Committee, whose members met each month during the past year, and at times more frequently, to address organizational and strategic issues as they arose; they did so with dedication and competence: President Chloé Rousselle, Vice-President Valérie Simard, immediate past President Maria Markatos, K.C., Criminal Section Chair Alisia Adams, Civil Section Chair Tyler Nyvall, ACPDM Chair Greg Blue, K.C.; and members-at-large Christine Badcock, Laurence Bergeron, Aleksander Godlewski, Matthew Hinshaw, Laura Pitcairn, and Elizabeth Strange; as well as Christina Croteau, Legal Project and Research Coordinator, and Michelle Lemieux Wilkinson, Executive Director and Administrator;

8. The 2025-2026 Budget and Finance Committee, skillfully chaired by Valérie Simard, whose members worked their way through the Excel files and figures with diligence and intelligence: Alisia Adams, Christine Badcock, Manon Dostie, Matthew Hinshaw, John Lee, Maria Markatos, K.C., James Meloche, Tyler Nyvall, Chloé Rousselle, and Valérie Simard; as well as Christina Croteau, Legal Project and Research Coordinator, and Michelle Lemieux Wilkinson, Executive Director and Administrator;

9. Greg Blue, K.C., Chair of the ACPDM, Peter Lown, Chair of the International Committee, Christina Croteau, Legal Project and Research Coordinator, and Michelle Lemieux Wilkinson, Executive Director and Administrator; who provided invaluable support to the ULCC throughout the year;

10. Greg Blue, K.C., Christine Badcock, Elizabeth Strange, and Dave Cordingley, the four members of the Civil Section who accepted to facilitate the Section's meetings in the Chair's absence;

11. The interpreters without whom many of our discussions would not be as meaningful: Cyndie Célestin, Karine Circé, Anne Dubouloz-Lodge, Laura Garfinkel, Karine Lauzon, Sara Vafaï;

12. The audio-visual team from Encore Global for ensuring that everything ran smoothly during the week: Petra Jones, Shay McGouran, and Dorion De Natale;

13. From the Delta Hotel Winnipeg, Stepanie Enns and all the wonderful staff onsite during the week, for hosting and creating a wonderful space for us to meet;

14. And last but not least, the jurisdictional representatives, delegates, observers, presenters, and working group and committee chairs and members, without whom none of the work actually happens, for their dedication, expertise, and enthusiasm; each is a wonderful ambassador of the ULCC in their organization, jurisdiction or legal community;

thank you very much.

Moved by Alisia Adams. Seconded by James Meloche. Motion carried.

Ms Rousselle invited Matthew Hinshaw to present the report of the Nomination Committee.

Report from the Nomination Committee

On behalf of the Nomination Committee, Mr Hinshaw put forward the following names for the positions of President and Vice-President for 2026-2027, following which he would open the floor for any additional nominations: for President, Valérie Simard from the Canada delegation, and for Vice-President, James Meloche, also from the Canada delegation.

Mr Hinshaw asked for any nominations from the floor for the positions of President and Vice-President. There being no other nominations from the floor, Mr. Hinshaw put forward a resolution as follows:

THAT Valérie Simard and James Meloche be nominated for President and Vice-President of the ULCC respectively for 2026-2027. Moved by Alisia Adams. Seconded by Chloé Rousselle. Motion carried.

Ms Rousselle thanked Mr Hinshaw and then stated that it was time for her to pass the torch to Ms Simard for her remarks as the new ULCC President.

Incoming President's Remarks

Ms Simard said that it was with gratitude, humility, and a strong sense of responsibility that she accepted the office of President. She noted that since attending her first annual meeting in Halifax in 2010, she has had the privilege of seeing firsthand what makes the ULCC so strong: the enduring commitment of its members to advancing the ULCC's mandate of harmonization and law reform in Canada.

Ms Simard stated that the ULCC's work is sustained by a culture of collaboration and by the bilingual character of the organization. It is enriched by the exchange of diverse perspectives and by the dialogue between Canada's two legal traditions. Throughout her years of involvement with the ULCC, she has seen how a collaborative spirit translates into thoughtful and constructive discussions that strengthen the ULCC's work. She said that it is in this spirit, mutual respect, and shared purpose that she would approach her mandate.

Ms Simard stated that, over the coming year, she will have the privilege of working with an outstanding Executive Committee. In addition to Section Chairs Dave Cordingley and Nicolas Abran, the Committee includes immediate past President Chloé Rousselle, incoming Vice-President James Meloche, and the Chair of the Advisory Committee on Program Development and Management, Greg Blue, K.C.

In identifying the additional participants to serve on the Committee, Ms Simard noted that she was mindful of the importance of ensuring representation from across Canada and of drawing on the breadth of experience and perspectives within the organization. Ms Simard said she was pleased that the following participants have agreed to serve on the 2026-2027 Executive Committee, subject to confirmation at the Committee's first meeting immediately following the closing plenary session: Christine Badcock (Yukon), Matthew Hinshaw (Alberta), Malika Levesque (New Brunswick), Maria Markatos, K.C. (Saskatchewan), and Tyler Nyvall (British Columbia). She said that the Committee will also benefit from the invaluable support of Alyssa McLeod, Criminal Section Secretary, Michelle

Lemieux Wilkinson, Executive Director and Administrator, and Christina Croteau, Project and Legal Research Coordinator.

Ms Simard said that the coming year will be an ambitious one for the ULCC as the Civil and Criminal Sections advance work on several substantive projects. At the same time, the Budget and Finance Committee will develop a medium- to long-term budget strategy, as requested by the Executive Committee following the previous year's review of the annual assessments. She added that another priority will be to continue to raise the profile of the ULCC within the federal, provincial and territorial governments and ensure that members who have recently joined the ULCC are welcomed and fully integrated into its work.

Ms Simard indicated that, for more than a century, the ULCC has been evolving without compromising the foundations that are its strength. Over the years, it has successfully navigated periods of profound transformation including technological upheavals, new expectations of institutions and unprecedented work environments, while remaining true to its mandate of modernizing the law. She noted that, by bringing together legal practitioners from across the country, working in both official languages, and fostering dialogue between Canada's two legal traditions, the ULCC continues to demonstrate its remarkable adaptability and institutional excellence.

Ms Simard stated that each new generation of members enriches this shared history, and she called on those who have already spent several years with the ULCC to support and encourage newer members, and on the newer members to get fully involved, seize opportunities to participate, and make their perspectives heard. More broadly, she encouraged everyone to be a voice for the ULCC within their organizations and legal communities as she strongly believes that the ULCC's work gains greater impact and relevance when it is shared and discussed beyond this table. Finally, she emphasized that her door, like those of the Executive Committee members, remains open throughout the year. She invited those present to share their ideas, suggestions, or interest in contributing to the organization.

Ms Simard expressed her sincere thanks to her predecessor, Chloé Rousselle, for the leadership she has demonstrated over the past year. She noted the success of the annual meeting is a testament to the energy, dedication, and sound judgment that Ms Rousselle has brought to the ULCC. Ms Simard noted that she particularly appreciated Ms Rousselle's openness to different points of view. She said that she would strive to continue in this spirit and that she knows she could rely on Ms Rousselle's experience and valuable advice in the coming months.

In conclusion, Ms Simard extended her deepest gratitude and thanks to all those who made the annual meeting a success: the delegates, presenters, working group chairs and members, Section chairs, and invited guests, as well as the Civil Section members who stepped in to chair the Civil Section meetings; the ULCC's Executive Director, Legal Project and Research Coordinator, ACPDM Chair, International Committee Chair, and the interpreters, as well as the Manitoba hosts for their generous hospitality. She said it had been a privilege to work with everyone present and that, together, they inherited a remarkable institution. She stated that it was now the responsibility of all those present to ensure that the ULCC continues to serve our country with the same spirit of collaboration, excellence and public service that has defined it for more than a century.

Ms Simard turned the microphone over to Christine Badcock and Amy Porteous to present the report from the host jurisdiction for the 2027 annual meeting.

2027 Annual Meeting

Amy Porteous said that she was looking forward to welcoming the delegates to Whitehorse next year, from August 16 to 20. The delegates were presented with a short video that highlighted the beauty of the Yukon Territory.

Christine Badcock said that anyone wishing to extend their stay in the Yukon, either before or after the annual meeting, should ensure to book their hotel accommodations and car rental early. As well, she indicated that Yukon has its own airline, Air North, and that in the summer, it flies to Whitehorse directly from Toronto and Ottawa, and also flies via Yellowknife, Vancouver, Edmonton, and Calgary.

Ms Badcock said that she and Ms Porteous would be happy to assist delegates in any way they can should they have any questions regarding traveling to the Yukon and that they very much look forward to seeing everyone there next year.

Ms Simard thanked Ms Badcock and Ms Porteous and said that she very much looked forward to being in Whitehorse next year. She said that the 2012 annual meeting in Whitehorse was a memorable one and she is certain that the 2027 meeting will be as well.

Other Business

Ms Simard asked if anyone present had any other business to raise, or any outstanding questions they would like to put forward.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Ms Simard proposed the following resolution:

THAT the August 2026 annual meeting of the ULCC be adjourned with a thank you to all those who participated and to the host jurisdiction. Moved by Matthew Hinshaw. Seconded by Peter Planetta. Motion carried.